

The Honorable Bobby J. Hopewell  
 Mayor of Kalamazoo  
 241 West South Street  
 Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007-4796

Dear Mayor Hopewell:

Thank you for your April 4, 2013 letter regarding the City of Kalamazoo's concerns about the Allied Paper Landfill portion of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site.

As you know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not yet proposed a remedy for the site. EPA is evaluating a variety of cleanup alternatives and values the City's input. On April 12, 2013 my staff provided detailed responses to a number of earlier questions from your staff regarding details of the Allied Paper Landfill. In addition to the September 2012 and March 2013 meetings, Region 5 again met with you and other city council representatives via video conference on April 16, 2013 to hear the City's perspective about the final site remedy. Region 5 is currently scheduling another meeting with the City and ~~your~~ its contractor to discuss the costs associated with the complete excavation remedial action alternative.

EPA shares your concern about ensuring the continued safety of Kalamazoo's drinking water supply. preventing site contamination from migrating to the City's well field and from re-contaminating Portage Creek and the Kalamazoo River. Monitoring and flow data indicate that groundwater at the site does not flow toward the City's well field and ~~it is not a threat to the City's municipal water supply.~~ Additionally, EPA is committed to preventing site contamination from re-contaminating Portage Creek and the Kalamazoo River. EPA is confident that when a remedy is selected it the selected remedy will address all current and future threats from site contamination. EPA cannot select a remedy unless it is protective of human health and the environment.

After EPA completes an evaluation of various cleanup alternatives, a Feasibility Study (FS) will be shared with the public. EPA will also work with the City and other stakeholders to try to address concerns with the FS alternatives before issuing a proposed cleanup plan for public comment.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact Richard Karl, Superfund Division Director, at (312) 353-9773.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman  
Regional Administrator